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Henry Simon

Letters of  
Christopher Mitchell.  
1835 — 1843.

No. 1.

manuscript, one of

## Interesting Historic Letters.

Through the courtesy of Suel C. Winn we will publish each week during the fall and winter months one or more interesting historic letters taken from a lot of several hundred which have been left to posterity by the famous firm of Christopher Mitchell & Co., one of

Nantucket's most <sup>2</sup> energetic and prosperous firms of the old whaling days. The letters were found a few days ago by Mr. Winn among other ancient documents and papers which many years ago came into the possession of his father, the late John Winn, being copied into a letter book and covering the firm's correspondence with outfitters, whaling masters etc.

between the years 1835<sup>—</sup>  
and 1843. Some of the  
correspondence, especially  
that covering the instruc-  
tions given by the  
Mitchells to the masters  
of their ships is very  
interesting reading.

The  
first portion of the  
book includes correspon-  
dence bearing on the  
construction of a new  
ship for Christopher  
Mitchell and Co., by  
G. Barstow & Son, at  
Mattapoisett. We present

a few of these letters,<sup>4</sup>  
as follows:

Nantucket, 16th Octo. 1835,  
messrs G. Barstow & Son.  
Matapoisett.

Gentlemen: We will accept  
your terms of the 14th  
inst. for building a ship  
of 330 tons after the  
model of the Christopher  
Mitchell. taking the con-  
tract for that ship for  
your guide, with the  
exceptions named in  
your minutes, for  
copper fastening.

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To avoid leaving room for controversy hereafter, it will be best to exchange contracts, written out at length as we did for the C.M., the stern ports to be finished as expressed in that contract for the first payment, we will forward you a draft on New York for at three days sight for \$1000. One other on New York at 4 mos. for \$1000, and pay your draft here at sight for \$1000.

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Very respectfy your obt. svts.  
C. Mitchell & Co.

Nantucket, 1st. Decr. 1835.

Messrs. G. Barstow & Son,

Your favor of 28th ulto. was duly recd. asking  
for the dimensions of  
spars and our opinion  
upon certain improvements.  
The dimensions of masts etc.  
we will send by the  
next boat. The improve-  
ments which you propose  
we approve of. viz:  
fastening the caps with  
copper bolts instead of  
iron straps & altering the

7 contract in the  
Article of waterways for  
the upper deck & sub-  
stituting white pine for  
yellow pine, but not  
for the lower deck.

Anchors & Caboose knees  
we like to have as you  
propose & will send  
dimensions after it is  
ascertained that we shall  
have a use for them -  
for if we are to have  
difficulty with France,  
the Anchors may as well  
be in bar iron and  
the ship in the Forest

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of the men at the Plow.  
A short time will  
put us in possession  
of information which  
may lead us to have  
further correspondence  
upon this subject. We  
may find it convenient  
for both parties to keep  
still.

Yours, very respectfully,

C. Mitchell & Co..

Nantucket. 1st. April 1836  
Messrs. G. Barstow & Son.

Your favor of 2d Feby  
was read when our har-  
bour was opened. &

as you had made <sup>9</sup>  
arrangements with  
your friends for the  
Anchors, we did not  
think necessary to dis-  
turb them; neither did  
we think it necessary  
to say anything about  
plugging the decks or  
upper works, as these  
were not in the Con-  
tract & we did not  
wish it done. When  
you are finishing the  
Stern above deck, we

10

wish you to have it  
done as near to the  
contract as it can be  
without any regard to  
your own opinion of  
beauty. We have put on  
board Capt. Sturtevant's  
vessel, two flock-tin  
chambers for the pumps.

Herewith, you have  
our draft on Josiah  
Bradlee & Co., Boston for  
three thousand dollars  
at 4 mos. on acct. of  
the April payment, which  
please to acknowledge,

"

and also say if there is  
anything else you wish  
us to attend to.

Very respectfy, your  
obt. svts.

C. Mitchell & Co.

Nantucket, 11th April 1836.  
Messrs. G. Barstow & Son.

Your favor of 4th  
inst. was recd. in due  
course. You have done  
right in deciding to  
finish the stern agree-  
able to the contract.

We think the price  
of salt low enough,

12

I wish you to engage  
as much as you think  
we shall want for the  
ship. We approve of  
your manner of fitting  
the chains & channels as  
the C. Mitchell's were —  
mizzen chains long, to  
come above the rail  
without chainwales. We  
sent you the dimensions  
of masts, yards, etc. in  
December. If you have  
not received them, you  
must let us know it.

Very respectfully, your obt. obs.  
C. Mitchell & Co.

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Nantucket, 4th May 1836.

Wilson Barstow, Esq.,

The bearer.

Mr. John G. Thurber,  
is going to Mattapoisett  
in pursuit of stock for  
us to repair the ship  
Maria with; if you  
have any that will suit  
him, we should be glad  
for you to furnish it  
& send your bill to us.  
If he should not find  
such as he wants in  
your yard. You would  
oblige us by giving him

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such information as  
will enable him to  
get it.

Very respectfy, your obt.  
servts.

C. Mitchell & Co.

Nantucket, 30th May, 1836.

Wilson Barstow, Esq.,

your favour of 28th  
was received by the  
Boat yesterday. The Boat  
leaves again this morning  
before the Bank opens;  
therefore we cannot  
send the money this trip,  
but will send it on

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Wednesday. we would  
not have troubled you  
with the draft on Boston  
if we had not supposed  
it would be as good as  
Cash, less the discount.  
We will send the  
money for the timber  
by Capt. Sturtevant.

The Breasthook we  
have found here. We  
shall come with the  
Boat after the ship.

Respectfully, your obt. obs,

C. Mitchell & Co.

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Nantucket, 30th Octo. 1835-

Mr. L. Gay, Albany, N. Y.

Sir: A vessel has arrived here from Albany with 7 or 8 thousand dressed slaves on board, belonging to Messrs. Myrick and Meader, Coopers of this place.

We have made inquiry of them to learn why they imported these slaves without our consent. They say they were informed at Albany that they had a right to bring them into this County.

<sup>17</sup>

This information is not  
correct. We purchased  
the right for this County  
of the Patentees in Boston  
for Six hundred dollars  
& shall not consent  
for anybody to infringe  
upon that right with  
impunity. We have settled  
with Mr. Myrick for this  
parcel upon amicable  
terms & shall inform all  
the masters of packets that  
it is our intention to  
prosecute everyone who  
introduces these slaves  
into this County without

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our consent. we have  
heard nothing from Mr.  
Folger, respecting slaves  
this season.

Very respectfy. your mod obt.  
C. Mitchell & Co.

Nantucket. 30th. Octr. 1835.

Mr. Thos. Folger. Geneva.

Dear Sir: Since we wrote  
you on the 14th July by  
Mr. Barrett. we have sold  
15 thousand more of the  
Hhd. Slaves at \$50. to be  
paid in cash next  
spring. which leaves  
about 4 thousand unsold

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+ if there is no demand  
for these soon, we  
shall take them to  
our own shop. We have  
sold some more of the  
pipes at \$ 50, but the  
demand for them is  
very small.

We do not  
know what your intention  
is about shipping staves;  
but if you condescend to  
quit, we should like  
to know it, as we should  
wish to see the patent  
right for this County  
before we get involved  
in a law suit by

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having our right  
infringed upon.  
Importations have already  
commenced of purchases  
made in Albany of  
Mr. Gay by Chas. G. My-  
rick & Reuben Meader,  
who say that they were  
informed in Albany that  
they were at liberty to  
bring them here. We  
have made a compromise  
with them this time &  
told them we should  
prosecute next time.

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The last account we have of the Maria is by the Francis at New Bedford on the off-shore ground, 10th May with 1,650 bbls, to cruise the year out & then home.

Very respectfully your friends,  
C. Mitchell & Co.

Nantucket. 7th Nov. 1835.

Stephen Merriman, Esq.,

Merchants Ind. Co.

Sir: We perceive that the information from the Sandwich Islands

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makes it out that the  
Ship Phebe leaks badly.  
This information is not  
correct. We have a  
letter from Capt. Russell,  
dated October, 21st June,  
1835; he says his ship  
is in good order ex-  
cepting a leak of about  
50 strokes per hour, which  
has not increased any  
for the last three months.  
We would leave in  
about 2 hours for the  
Coast of Japan.

23

None of his crew had deserted at the islands. This, of itself, would be sufficient to show that the ship did not leak badly.

Very respectfully your most obt.  
C. Mitchell & Co.

P.S. The Peruvian was reported by the Black Warrior on her passage home, leaking badly. When the ship arrived, Capt. Coggeshall informed us that in bad weather, the ship leaked about one hundred strokes per hour. C.M.

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Nantucket, 12th Nov. 1835.

Mr. Nathan Comstock.

Dear Sir: Your favour  
of 9th ulto. was duly  
received with your  
acct. current, showing  
a balance in our favour  
of \$108.51. Our books were  
made conformable thereto.  
Here with you have  
an invoice of 29 casks  
fall strained oil on  
board the Schr. Cham-  
pion, Capt. Ed. H.  
Levain, for our acct.  
This is the first oil

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which we have strained  
this season. The weather  
has been so mild until  
now that good Fall oil  
could not be made  
before, although we  
perceive that our neigh-  
bors have been shipping  
it for some time,  
apparently in haste to  
realize good prices; but  
from the information  
which we are daily  
receiving from the ships  
in the Pacific Ocean,  
there is no doubt but

the price <sup>26</sup> will keep up.  
Very respectfully your friends,  
C. Mitchell & Co.

27

have any first quality  
Hemp, such as you  
can recommend to make  
the standing rigging of  
a new ship out of, you  
may ship us six tons  
by either of the Schooners  
Enterprise or Geo Washington.  
Herewith you have an  
invoice of 24 casks first  
quality Fall strained  
Sperm oil on board  
sloop Nantucket, Capt.  
C. C. Myrick. When we  
speak of this bit as  
being first quality,

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we mean that it is as good as can be made at this season of the year, it all having been strained the last week, but it will not stand exposure to frost without chilling, anymore than Fall strained oil made in Boston will.

Very respectfully your friends.

C. Mitchell & Co.

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Nantucket 9th January,  
1836.

Mr. Thos. Folger.

Dear Sir: Some apology  
is required from us  
for not answering yours  
of the 9th Nov. as soon as  
it was received & we  
have no doubt but you  
have thought so yourself,  
but we do not know  
whose door to lay it to,  
except that of neglect - a  
very poor excuse too. You  
will say. We have sold  
the remainder of the  
Hopshead Staves, to be

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paid for in casks when  
the ships want them.  
We are preparing a place  
to build a shed large  
enough to keep slaves  
from being exposed to the  
weather, should you send  
us any more. As long  
as the whaling business  
is carried on from  
here, slaves will be  
wanted for the casks; but  
it is not for us to  
say whether you can  
make it profitable or  
not. Your present ex-  
perience is worth some-  
thing & might qualify

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you to judge for  
yourself. After the  
gale on the lake at  
Buffalo, we expected  
to hear that you had  
lost the Schooner, but  
the papers did not tell  
us so. We are expecting  
soon to hear that you  
have sold the Farm.

We were somewhat  
disappointed in not getting  
a better voyage by the  
Peruvian, but it was  
principally owing to the  
age of the ship. We  
have not sold out  
entirely but have

32

Concluded to hold one quarter; and Seth holds one eighth. This does not enable us to pay the note, for we have not yet sold any of the oil; and then we have laid down the keel of a new one, 330 tons — one quarter for Seth. Poor encouragement to build new ones, you will say!

We have just received a letter from Capt. Alex. Macy, dated at Payta, 5th Octo., after an unsuccessful cruise, in which he saw whales but

three times & took 150 bbls.,  
which makes him but  
1,500 bbls. He had  
caulked the ship all  
above the bends & done  
considerable repairs to the  
ship & says she is now in  
good order: had paid  
all his bills & could  
add something to his  
provisions without drawing  
for funds. Think we need  
not look for him until  
after the middle of  
April, as he does not  
wish to come on this  
coast before that time  
on account of the ship,

if he can <sup>34</sup> stay so long.  
Says he has good officers  
& a good crew & they  
are all well & all  
they want is to see  
whales & they can get  
them, but thinks they are  
as plenty in the Atlantic  
Ocean as in the Pacific.  
At the present price of  
oil, this would be a sav-  
ing voyage, but we do  
not expect that it will  
maintain its present price  
through the spring, for  
there are a large number  
of ships to arrive  
between this & June.

35

We have a few thousand  
of the thin pipe stoves  
(say three or four) remain-  
ing unsold. These we  
expect to get rid of  
in the spring at \$50,  
the price which we have  
been selling them at.

Mr. Barrett has not dis-  
couraged any of us from  
traveling. It is owing to  
various other causes.

The coming season will  
find business enough  
for us all at home.  
if Jackson does not  
get us any further into

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this foolish scrape with  
France. There is great danger  
yet. Your former neighbor  
Abisha Bunker died  
yesterday. Cousin John  
Beasse lives yet, but  
has lost all his reason.  
Father & Mother Mitchell  
are about the same; at  
least we do not discover  
any difference since last  
Summer. The other  
members of the family  
are as well as usual.  
The Mariner is looked for  
next May. We omitted  
mentioning in the right  
place that we had settled

<sup>37</sup>

with the persons who  
had infringed on our  
patent; they paid us  
one dollar per thousand,  
sufficient only to let  
them know that the right  
belonged to us alone.

Respectfully your friends,  
C. Mitchell & Co.

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Nantucket, 19th Jany. 1836.  
Messrs. Josiah Bradlee & Co.

Gentlemen: We wrote you on the 16th inst. by the Enterprise requesting that if you had not sold the Hemp which you were expecting by the Imoleon, you would ship us five tons by the Enterprise & five tons by the Geo. Washington & get the whole insured. These vessels are loaded & only waiting a wind, and by the time they can make their trips, it will be necessary for

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us to have a part of the  
Hemp, unless we are to  
have a war with France;  
therefore if yours is sold,  
we wish you to purchase  
that quantity & ship it  
as above.

Very respectfully your friends,  
C. Mitchell & Co.

Nantucket. 12th March. 1836

Mr. Thos. Folger.

Dear Sir: Your favour  
of the 8th ulto. came to  
hand when the embargo  
which had laid upon  
us was raised. We  
are sorry that we

40

disappointed you on the score of money, but when we received your November letter our money was all laying in oil and we have not yet been able to realize more cash from it than was required to make our payments on the new ship.

In putting the slave contract, we shall have to sacrifice the cost of the patent right, unless we find someone who will be willing to take it off our hands for the remaining

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seven years. We are glad to find that Thomas & Henry were safe in the gale, and think you have good cause to be grateful to a kind Providence for their protection.

You will have seen by the papers that the Chas. Carroll has arrived with a good voyage and that she reports the Maria with 1,500 lbs. This is what Capt. Macy writes us he has got; he also writes that he shall use up

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two months in looking  
for whales on his passage  
home, & that we need  
not look for him until  
after the middle of  
April & we were in  
hopes that he would  
add something to his oil  
in that time; but as Jervis  
Bourne was coming by  
Holmes Hole today he saw  
a ship coming out & spoke  
her & it was the Maria,  
with 1.500 barrels.

We have called on  
Capt. West to know if  
he was authorized by  
you to take care of

43 your oil. & he informs us that he is not.

This being the case, we have concluded to take it up and store it in the slave yard in front of G. C.'s house, where it will be safe & free from expense until we hear from you.

Half-past four. P.M.  
Capt. Macy has just arrived & informs us that he was obliged to make the

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best of his way home  
on account of the  
Scurvy, being entirely  
out of vegetables. He  
has one man down  
with the Scurvy now.  
He took one 40- bbl.  
whale off Trinidad.  
Very respectfully your friends.  
C. Mitchell & Co.

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Nantucket. 24th March. 1836.

Messrs. Josiah Bradlee & Co.

Gentlemen: Your favour

of 19th inst. is rec'd.

with a bill of one

bale ravenis duck on

board the Olympus &

a copy of the docu-

ments from Somerville.

We shall avail

ourselves of the liberty

of drawing with the

understanding that you

shall be in possession

of more property than

sufficient to meet the

bills before they come

49

due. We have drawn  
on you this day in  
favour of James Athearn  
for two thousand dollars  
at 4 mos. Our first  
draft will be for  
\$ 3,000. 1st April in  
favour of G. Barstow &  
Son.

With regard to the  
demand of L. & G. Bell  
for bad oil to be  
made good. we think  
the amount in this  
case is not sufficient  
to stand a law-suit.  
as we did in the

47

Baltimore case & after  
being more than ten  
years in dispute,  
sunk more than the  
whole amt. of the oil  
which was sold at \$1.15  
per gallon.

We have become  
quite familiar with  
these demands & do not  
feel alarmed when  
they are made.  
If you  
cannot satisfy Messrs.  
Thining & Perkins that  
the oil was such as  
you sold it for,

you had<sup>48</sup> better make  
a compromise with  
them. & charge us with  
the loss. When we made  
you those shipments of  
Winter oil, we had not  
a gallon of any other  
kind of manufactured  
oil in our possession.

Very respectfully your friends,  
C. Mitchell & Co.

Nantucket. 1st April, 1836.  
Mr. Nathan Comstock.

Dear Sir: The bearer,  
Samuel King, has been  
a voyage to the Pacific

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Ocean in our ship,  
Maria & is now about  
visiting New York for  
the purpose of sending  
some of his earnings  
to his friends in Ireland  
& we have taken the  
liberty of giving him  
a draft for two  
hundred & fifty dollars  
at sight. You would  
oblige us by paying  
the same & charge the  
amt. to our acct.

Very respectfully your friends.

C. Mitchell & Co.

50

Nantucket. 4th April. 1836.  
Messrs. Josiah Bradlee & Co.,  
Gentlemen: Your favour  
of 30th ulto., covering  
sales of 26 casks Fall  
Strained oil. This will  
not stand a degree  
of cold much below  
the freezing point, without  
chilling. We shall have  
another invoice ready  
to ship by the last of  
this week.

Very respectfully your friends.

C. Mitchell & Co.

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Nantucket, 4th April, 1836.

Messrs. Josiah Bradlee & Co.,

Gentlemen: Agreeably to our advises of 4th inst., we herewith hand you another invoice of spring strained oil by the Schr. Geo. Washington, Capt. J. F. Whitney.

This is not quite so light-colored as the last invoice, but we think it will stand the cold better than that. We have drawn on you this day for one thousand dollars

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at 4 mos. in favour  
of James Athearn.

The risk on  
the Maria expired on  
the 21st. March; our  
premium notes for  
this risk are No. 18,177  
for \$981 in the Mer-  
chant's Office & No.  
1,659 for \$301 in the  
National Office. Please  
to pay these when due  
& charge the several  
amounts to our acct.  
& oblige

Your friends.

C. Mitchell & Co.

P. S. Please to ship by

53

the Geo. Washington two  
tons first quality clean  
St. Petersburg hemp,  
get it insured and  
charge the amount  
to our ~~debt.~~ acct.

Yours, etc. C. Mitchell & Co.

Nantucket. 20th May. 1836.  
To the Parents of Hyram  
McKinley.

Philadelphia:

We have just received  
a letter from Thos. W.  
McKinley, dated at  
New York, 16th April.  
1836, making inquiry  
about your son.

54

Hyram Mc Kinley, who  
sailed from this port  
in May, 1834, on board  
ship Phebe, Capt. S. S.  
Russell, and wishing  
us to communicate to  
you any information,  
which we may have  
respecting him. The latest  
information we have  
from that ship is con-  
tained in a letter  
from Capt. Russell,  
dated at Oaher, Sand-  
wich Islands, 25th  
Nov., 1835, received 9th  
of this month by ship

Mariner direct from  
there. The ship had  
been one season on the  
coast of Japan & had  
obtained 500 barrels  
of Sperm oil. Very few  
voyages at this time,  
are performed in less  
than three years & with-  
out some extraordinary  
success we think this  
one will be lengthened  
to near four years.  
Capt. Russell does not  
name any of his crew  
particularly, but in  
general terms says

<sup>56</sup>  
they enjoy good health.  
You will see by the  
superscription of this  
letter that we did  
not know who to  
address by name.  
Very respectfully.  
C. Mitchell & Co.

Nantucket, 21st May, 1836.  
Messrs. Josiah Bradlee & Co.  
Gentlemen: We are in  
want of 350 first  
quality water rotted  
flax & are informed  
by Mr. Reuben R. Bun-  
ker, who has a

5-8

57

manufactory of  
liverie in this place,  
that he gets his flag  
of Geo. Thacher & Co.,  
Long Wharf. Boston.  
He has laid in his  
stock this year of a  
superior lot of American  
flag. If those gentlemen  
would let you have  
some like that, we  
should be glad to have  
it, even if we had to  
pay something more for  
it, but rather than  
have an inferior

58 Kind of American, we  
should prefer first  
quality st. Pittsburgh.  
We should be glad  
if you would ship  
it by the first packet  
& charge to our acct.  
Very respectfully your  
friends,

C Mitchell & Co.

Nantucket, 23d May. 1836.  
Messrs. Josiah Bradlee & Co.,  
Gentlemen: Your favour  
of 16th inst. came  
to hand by the Enter-  
prise, asking advice

<sup>11</sup>  
59 respecting the Winter  
Oil which remains  
unsold. We think  
it would be a  
safe speculation for  
anybody at 90c. but  
as we should probably  
lose less by having it  
sold at that price  
than by keeping it  
over the warm season,  
you are at liberty to  
sell it. We shall  
commence making  
candles as soon as we  
can make them as

<sup>60</sup> dry as New Bedford  
brands, or by the first  
of June.

Very respectfy your friends.

C. Mitchell & Co.

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Nantucket. Octo.. 1836.

Capt. Elisha H. Fisher,  
Sir: Having appointed  
you to the command  
of the ship. Maria, we  
wish you to proceed  
to sea with all con-  
venient dispatch,  
and as the ship

61  
is furnished with  
everything necessary  
for you to proceed  
to the Pacific Ocean,  
we do not think it  
necessary for you to  
touch at any point  
this side of Cape Horn,  
unless you should be  
so fortunate as to get  
oil on your passage  
before passing the  
western or Cape Verd  
Islands. in which case  
you can touch at  
the most convenient

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part of the islands which you are nearest to and ship it home. Our friends in Boston are Josiah Bradlee & Co.; in New York, Jacob Macy & Son, to whom you will consign the oil which you may ship.

On your arrival in the Pacific Ocean, you will consider yourself at liberty to cruise wherever you may think the prospect best for a

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Cargo of Sperm oil.

You are at liberty to go into port - as often as it becomes necessary to recruit and refit the ships, but you must not prolong your stay for social purposes; and while cruising at sea, you will suffer no visiting to interfere with the interests of the voyage. We have had much cause heretofore to complain of visiting and parousing,

and expect it will<sup>64</sup>  
be avoided by you.  
When in port, do not  
suffer your men to  
sell their clothes to  
buy fruit and liquor,  
but rather give them  
fruit at the ship's  
expense where it is  
plenty, and at no rate  
suffer liquor to be  
brought on board,  
except in a very  
small quantity &  
that for medical  
purposes only.

~~beginning~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~new~~

65<sup>o</sup>

Serious losses have occurred by suffering the officers to neglect a part of their duty, which you must not allow; we mean the practice of leaving the deck in case of boat-steerers, who are not paid for that service. And that you may not misunderstand

<sup>66</sup>  
us in this respect,  
we repeat that it is  
our desire that you  
require the mates to  
take their regular  
watch in the night  
time while at sea,  
through the whole  
voyage; it will be no  
justification for them  
to omit this part of  
their duty because it  
is not practised on

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board some other ship.

We wish you to bear in mind that perfect-order is to be maintained on board ship by you & that no quarrelling is to be allowed among the officers, nor between them & the crews, as the success of the voyage depends very much on harmony & united exertion. If the means for reequipping the ship with which you are furnished should not

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be sufficient, you are at liberty to draw on the owners to supply the deficiency. You will remember to write the owners by every opportunity & keep them informed of the state of the ship & progress of the voyage, and when you go into port by direct opportunity offer for sending letters home, write & leave them in the care of the Consul or some other person who will take the care to

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forward letters by  
first conveyance.

You have  
now on board the ship  
twenty-two men, including  
officers. You are at liberty,  
after getting round Cape  
Horn, to ship such num-  
ber of men on fair & sea-  
sonable terms as will  
enable you to man four  
boats, provided you  
think it will be for the  
advancement of the voyage,  
always bearing in mind  
to discharge them as

soon as the <sup>70</sup> interests of  
the voyage do not require  
their further services.

We have had  
much cause of complaint  
that the ship's tools have  
not had proper care &  
attention; we wish you  
on your return to have  
a correct inventory made  
of them & such as are not  
wanted properly packed  
in a case & headed up.  
We also wish immediately  
after sailing, to have  
the ship's spars, blocks, tools,  
and in fact everything

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belonging to the ship, branded;  
the brand for that purpose  
is now in the tool chest.  
On your return, we wish  
a full inventory of the state  
of the spars, rigging &  
sails belonging to the ship,  
as also all her craft &  
appurtenances. We also  
wish you to keep a record  
of all trading for, or on  
account of, the ship or  
owners. We have named no  
particular ground where  
we wish the ship to cruise;  
our desire is to have you  
steer by your own compass.

72 and after making up your judgment as to what is best, follow no man's lead, because he is going on to this or that ground.

You have our warmest wishes that your voyage may be prosperous & happy.

Geo. B. Upton.

For Owners of  
Ship Maria.



